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Commentary on "The Independence of Love: Leah and Kambili's Rise from Colonialism"

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Lilla's paper gets quickly to the point and then never loses sight of it. Its introduction gives us only *necessary* summary information and defining the paper's focus in deft, unambiguous terms. Lilla puts a lot of ideas in her paper but is able to sustain them thanks to a clear, deliberate organization and paragraphs with consistent, parallel structures. She supports her ideas with detailed plot analysis, appropriate direct quotes, and materials from secondary sources that strengthen her points without overwhelming them. One of the common pitfalls of writing comparison papers is not clearly separating the things being compared, resulting in a paper that can be confusing and unpleasant to read. Lilla's paper is neither of these things. As a comparison between two things, the paper read very well—there were just a few places where the integration of quotations felt a little jagged. Not finding much to quibble about at the sentence-level, I asked Lilla to expand on her argument's conclusions. I felt like she could go farther in addressing the “So what?” question that all argument papers must answer. What can the reader “take away” about, say, colonialism, in the context of these two very similar characters, I wondered. Basically, I suggested that Lilla use all of her comparisons as a springboard to some larger claim. I don't think this will be too hard to do given Lilla's sophisticated reading of her sources, the depth of her comparisons, and the blossom of meaning that subtly grows from the successful juxtaposition of any two texts.